

To: Dayne Walling[dwalling@cityofflint.com]
From: Hedman, Susan
Sent: Fri 7/10/2015 9:44:58 PM
Subject: Re: ACLU of Michigan Report: Flint Family Pays Heavy Price for City's Water Woes

Mayor Walling --

We released the following statement this afternoon in response to press inquiries:

EPA continues to work closely with the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality and the City of Flint to ensure that Flint residents are provided with safe drinking water. EPA conducted limited drinking water sampling for lead in Flint in response to a citizen complaint. The initial results and staff recommendations to management were documented in an internal memorandum, which was cited in the ACLU article. EPA will work with Michigan DEQ and the City of Flint to verify and assess the extent of lead contamination issues and to ensure that Flint's drinking water meets federal standards.

Flint residents who are concerned about lead in their drinking should contact the utility and may request that their water be sampled. Additional information about lead in drinking water is available at <http://water.epa.gov/drink/contaminants/basicinformation/lead.cfm>.

Sent from my iPhone

On Jul 10, 2015, at 8:36 AM, Dayne Walling <dwalling@cityofflint.com> wrote:

keeping you in the loop as I expect our local media will be calling around for comments
press release and document links near the bottom
thanks, Dayne

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Jason Lorenz** <jlorenz@cityofflint.com>
Date: Thu, Jul 9, 2015 at 4:49 PM
Subject: Fwd: FW: ACLU of Michigan Report: Flint Family Pays Heavy Price for City's Water Woes
To: Natasha Henderson <nhenderson@cityofflint.com>, Dayne Walling <dwalling@cityofflint.com>, Howard Croft <hcroft@cityofflint.com>, Peter Bade <pbade@cityofflint.com>, Michael Glasgow <mglasgow@cityofflint.com>

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From: "Ronald Fonger" <RFONGER1@mlive.com>
Date: Jul 9, 2015 4:18 PM

Subject: FW: ACLU of Michigan Report: Flint Family Pays Heavy Price for City's Water Woes

To: "jlorenz@cityofflint.com" <jlorenz@cityofflint.com>

Cc:

Jason: Thanks for the news release on the filter. Even though I wrote late last month that the installation had started, we are putting up a post and photos taken today.

Do you want to talk or respond?

Ron Fonger

MLive Media Group

Reporter

mobile 810.347.9963

email rfonger1@mlive.com

address 540 S. Saginaw St. #101, Flint MI 48502

From: Kristin Longley

Sent: Thursday, July 09, 2015 2:37 PM

To: Ronald Fonger

Subject: FW: ACLU of Michigan Report: Flint Family Pays Heavy Price for City's Water Woes

Kristin Longley

Community Engagement Specialist

[The Flint Journal](#) | [MLive Media Group](#)

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From: Clark Hughes <CHUGHES3@mlive.com>
Date: Thursday, July 9, 2015 2:29 PM
To: Conde Nast <KLONGLEY1@MLIVE.COM>
Subject: FW: ACLU of Michigan Report: Flint Family Pays Heavy Price for City's Water Woes

From: Darrell Dawsey [<mailto:ddawsey@aclumich.org>]
Sent: Thursday, July 09, 2015 2:00 PM
To: Clark Hughes
Subject: ACLU of Michigan Report: Flint Family Pays Heavy Price for City's Water Woes

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

July 9, 2015

CONTACT: Darrell Dawsey, ACLU of Michigan, 313-578-6831; ddawsey@aclumich.org

DETROIT—Describing the toxicity of one Flint household's tap water as "hazardous-waste levels," alarmed water-quality experts warned in a new ACLU of Michigan report that Flint officials are using a "loophole" in water testing guidelines that skews test results, exacerbates water woes in the city and could create a "false sense of security" about the Flint water supply.

"It is both outrageous and heartbreaking to think that families with small children have been allowed to drink, bathe and cook with water so thoroughly polluted by lead," said ACLU of Michigan executive director Kary Moss. "It's even worse to have to worry that city officials may not only be avoiding the truth about the lead levels, but may be making the problem worse. The people of Flint deserve to know whether their water is hazardous."

Interviewed as part of "Corrosive Impact," an explosive new ACLU report that focuses on one Flint family's ordeal with lead-contaminated water, university researcher Marc Edwards and EPA manager Miguel Del Toral both expressed grave concern about the city's water supply and testing measures after Edwards' independent analysis of the family's tap water revealed lead levels that were more than five times higher than what city tests showed. The report, focused on the Walters family in Flint, was compiled by ACLU of Michigan investigative reporter Curt Guyette.

"I have never in my 25-year career seen such outrageously high levels going into another home in the United States," said Edwards. "This was literally hazardous-waste levels."

Flint has come under increasing scrutiny for its poor water quality ever since an emergency manager severed the city's ties to the Detroit water system in 2014 and ordered the city to begin pumping its water from the Flint River.

The report draws heavily from an internal U.S. Environmental Protection Agency memo that asserts

that the city is exacerbating the public health threat of lead-laced water while at the same time conducting tests that minimize the dangers posed to other residents throughout the city. Of greatest concern is the city's practice of having residents "pre-flush" their home plumbing systems before city officials test the water.

"The practice of pre-flushing before collecting compliance samples has been shown to result in the minimization of lead capture and significant underestimation of lead levels in the drinking water," the memo states.

The memo also says the city discontinued corrosion control treatments for lead and copper, materials found in many of the pipes in the city's aging water and sewerage infrastructure: "A major concern from a public health standpoint is the absence of corrosion control treatment in the City of Flint for mitigating lead and copper levels in the drinking water."

Del Toral, who was interviewed for the article as a private citizen, not as an EPA official, underscored the need for the city officials to respond the problem immediately.

"I don't want to scare people unnecessarily," said Del Toral. "But there is absolutely a problem in Flint that needs to be addressed right away."

KEY NEWS & DOCUMENTS

[Read the ACLU of Michigan's Flint water story](#)

[Watch "Corrosive Impact," about one family's struggle with water contamination](#)

[Read the EPA memo](#)

If you would rather not receive future communications from Michigan - ACLU, let us know by clicking [here](#).
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